

REMARKS

In response to a previous restriction requirement, claims 1-3 and 6 were elected. Claim 1 has been amended. The subject matter of claim 6 has been added to amended claim 1. Accordingly, claim 6 is cancelled.

As to the rejection under Section 112, the amendments to claim 1 are believed to address these rejections. No new matter has been added. As to amended Claim 1, the specification and drawings disclose a scissor-type cutting tool having first and second cutting members. It is noted that scissor type cutters are well-known in the art as comprising two cutting members lying in adjacent planes. Otherwise, the cutting members would not be able to cut objects placed between them.

Both the first and second cutting members also inherently have a thickness defined between an inner face and an outer face. The inner face of one of the cutting members is oriented toward the inner face of the other cutting member which lies in the adjacent plane. Likewise, the outer faces of both first and second cutting members face away from each other. For example, in Fig. 1, the outer face of the first cutting member 12 is the surface shown which is parallel to the drawing sheet and, while not actually visible in the drawing, the inner face is the surface which lies behind it. As to the second cutting member 14, the inner face is the surface shown which is parallel to the drawing sheet while the outer face lies behind the inner face and is not visible in Fig. 1. In Fig. 3 the enlarged perspective view shows an outer face in the foreground.

Also as shown in Fig. 3, both claimed first and second cutting members include a cutting edge having a blunt surface and a sharp surface. On each cutting member, the sharp

surface is disposed at a first angle relative to the inner face. Similarly, the blunt surface is disposed at a second angle relative to the inner face of the cutting member. The first angle is smaller than the second angle. In this way, relative movement of the blunt surfaces of the first and second cutting members crushes the optical fiber cable without cutting through the protective layer and relative movement of the sharp surfaces of the first and second cutting members is capable of cutting through the protective layer. The functional language objected to in claim 1 has been deleted in favor of the language describing the structure of the cutting members.

As to the rejections under Section 102, applicant respectfully disagrees that the claimed invention is anticipated by Gunson, U.S. 4,048,721. Gunson discloses a pair of scissors with molded plastic blades 10 and 12 which receive a metal cutting element 14 having a marginal edge portion 16 which is molded to the blades for cutting objects placed between the blades.

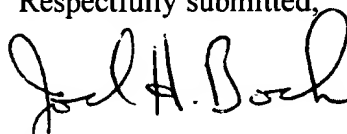
Nothing in Gunson teaches or suggests a cutting member having a blunt surface so as to crush the optical fiber without cutting through the protective layer. The marginal edge portion 16 has only a sharp surface suitable for cutting. At no point does Gunson disclose that the marginal edge portion 16 provides a blunt surface so as to crush the object between the blades without cutting the object. Hence, the edge portion 16 does not teach or suggest the claimed blunt surface. Other disclosed embodiments in Gunson also consistently disclose the edge portion 16 as a sharp surface for cutting. In Figs. 14-16 the blade portion 16 may be sharpened as needed, as indicated in column 4, lines 15-16 and lines 31-36.

In addition, Gunson does not teach or disclose the subject matter of claim 2. Since Gunson lacks any teaching of blunt surfaces, it cannot teach blunt surfaces which are radially inwardly of the sharp surfaces, as recited in claim 2. Gunson's sharp cutting edge

extends continuously from the tip of each cutting member to a location adjacent the pivotal connection. The subject matter of claim 2 is therefore believed to be allowable on an independent basis.

It is respectfully submitted that claims 1-3 as amended clearly distinguish over the cited reference. Reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joel H. Bock". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first and last names being more prominent.

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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Serial No.:	09/641,715]	
]	Group Art Unit 3724
Filed:	August 21, 2000]	
For:	Fiber Optic Cable Cutting Tool]	

MARKED UP COPY SHOWING CHANGES

In the Specification:

Please amend the specification by substituting the following paragraph: On page 1, lines 15-19:

--Hand-held cutting tools having sharp blade edges exist for cutting cables, including those cables comprising KEVLAR. However, should such cutting tools be used [sued] to cut fiber optic cables, the cutting tools will not be capable of repeated usage. The optical fiber of the fiber optic cable is formed of a hard material. Cutting through the hard optical fiber dulls the blade of the cutting tool prematurely.--

In the Claims:

1. (Amended) A hand-held cutting tool for cutting a fiber optic cable having an optical fiber surrounded by at least one protective layer comprising:

a first cutting member and a second cutting member, said first cutting member being pivotably attached to said second cutting member [allowing] to allow for pivotable movement of the cutting members between an opened position and a closed position, said first cutting member having an inner face which faces toward said second cutting member and an outer face which

faces away from said second cutting member, and said second cutting member having an inner face which faces toward said first cutting member and an outer face which faces away from said first cutting member;

said first cutting member including a cutting edge which has a blunt surface and a sharp surface, said second cutting member including a cutting edge which has a blunt surface and a sharp surface, said sharp surfaces being disposed at a first angle relative to the respective inner faces and said blunt surfaces being disposed at a second angle relative to the respective inner faces, the first angle being smaller than the second angle[;

wherein said blunt surface of said first cutting member and said blunt surface of said second cutting member are capable of crushing said optical fiber without cutting through said protective layer, said sharp surface of said first cutting member and said sharp surface of said second cutting member are capable of cutting through said protective layer].